

---

**From:** Curlena McDonald <cmcdonald04@snet.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2013 5:45 AM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Cc:** Catherine Hogan; 'Dorthula Green'; 'Florita Gillespie'; diasha.dozier@gmail.com; asadie.walters@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Curlena McDonald, President of Granville Academy In New Haven.ing!!)  
**Importance:** High

To: The Appropriation Committee  
From: Granville Academy in New Haven  
Re: Testimony on behalf of Inclusion Teaming  
Date: February 15, 2013

Dear Appropriation Committee,

My name is Curlena McDonald, President of Granville Academy in New Haven

Granville Academy In New Haven began in March 2003. This after-school program teaches young people, particularly inner city youth but not exclusively, about the global marketplace and provides the opportunity for training on how to develop their own businesses. Granville Academy is a proven successful mentoring program where over 85 percent of its graduates go on to college. This program is modeled after the Granville Academy National of Trenton New Jersey, which has been in existence for twenty four years. Granville Academy National has fostered many affiliates along the East Coast and Ohio, including the very successful 14 year-old Granville Academy of Waterbury Connecticut. We partnered with the Dwight Central Management Team (DCMT), which served as the catalyst, in establishing a Granville Academy affiliate in New Haven and Saint Raphael Healthcare System which host our program annually. Granville Academy In New Haven has a separate board of directors to govern the affairs of the academy and raise funds to support its operation. The organization is incorporated and has a 501(C3) status.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Granville Academy prepares youth to understand and prepare to work in the global marketplace as it is today, and as it is evolving here and around the world. Experience proves that as students learn more about the workings of the economic system, the more likely they are to become productive citizens in their communities. Accordingly, the mission of Academy is three fold:

- To help youth enter and succeed in global market-driven economy
- To provide a foundation for their continued growth as world citizens and
- To instill in them a giving-back spirit focused on helping others and communities around the globe

The Granville Academy enlists the services of volunteers, businesses and community groups to achieve our mission.

In September 2012 Granville Academy In New Haven and Inclusion Teaming agreed to partner our programs to enhance the learning experience of our students/participants. Students were asked to volunteers and this opportunity has enhanced our students understanding

of good communication. Their perception, receptivity, insightfulness and sensitivity of others have expanded. Through their experiences, we have seen such growth in their view of the world and the importance of respect for people who communicate differently. Granville Academy in New Haven, look forward to an on-going partnership with Inclusion Teaming.

Here are testimonies from two of Granville Academy in New Haven students participating in the Granville Academy/Inclusion Teaming experience. Diasha Dozier and Asadie Walters are now seniors in high school, will be graduating in June 2013 and planning to go on to college.

(2)

---

Granville Academy in New Haven Student:

Although I am a new member of Inclusion and we have only been going for about 3 or 4 months I feel I have learned a lot. As a typical communicator I am learning multiple ways to communicate with non-traditional communicators(people on the Autism spectrum). One of the main things are social cues. By that I mean certain things typical communicators do while communicating, facial expressions and tone of voice for example, would be hard for a communicator with high functioning autism to grasp. In all our meetings we go over things like that and learn how to get over them.

This program is preparing me for my future because the career I plan to take on involves a lot of communicating. Even though the focus of Inclusion is learning how to communicate with non traditional communicators and helping them communicate with typical communicators I feel there are quite a few communication skills that can be used in daily life. Inclusion makes a person more open to the differences in other people. As humans we tend to think that everyone is like us and what we can do so can the person sitting next to us. And if we can't do something neither can they. Through Inclusion I have learned ways to prevent that type of thinking.

I love Inclusion and am very thankful I have the opportunity to work with them. And hopefully this funding will expand Inclusion so a lot more people can receive this knowledge.

**- Asadie Walters**

---